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Rebel cause, not strong at the outset, evidently became more feeble with his growing knowledge of the points at issue; and in his "War Pictures" he occupies an impartial position, which attaches peculiar weight to his opinions. He gives a clearer and more intelligible narrative of the battle of Manassas than we have seen elsewhere; and he fully confirms the statement that the Confederate generals had given up as irrecoverably lost, not only the fortune of the day, but the cause of Southern independence, when the appearance of Kirby Smith with fresh forces, at the latest moment at which they could have been availing, turned the tide of battle. He enters at large into the details of the Peninsular campaign under General McClellan, and shows how very near to complete success our army again approached. He ascribes to McClellan the very highest qualities as a general, says that he was more respected and feared by the Rebels than any other Federal commander, and maintains that his failure on the Peninsula was rendered unavoidable by the non-concurrence of the forces under McDowell with his own. On this subject we know that there is room for a diversity of judgment, and are well aware that public sentiment now sets very strongly against the man who was for a time the cynosure of the army and of loyal Americans. We cannot deem ourselves qualified to express an opinion, though it would not surprise us should a calm review of events show that General McClellan was simply a capable and highly educated officer of engineers, who lost the reputation and honor fairly earned and due by being forced into a place too large for one of his limited experience to fill. However this may be, there can be, we think, very little doubt that Colonel Estvan is justified in ascribing the almost unbroken series of misfortunes to the loyal cause which marked the first two years of the war "to a want of unity amongst the Federal generals." His book seems to us eminently wise in its judgments and opinions, is in its general tone friendly to the people of the North, and affords matter for careful reflection on past errors, and grave suggestions toward a better future, for our statesmen, generals, and citizens.

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- 29.— *The Bivouac and the Battle-Field; or Campaign Sketches in Virginia and Maryland.* By GEORGE F. NOYES, Capt. U. S. Volunteers. New York: Harper and Brothers. 1863. 12mo. pp. 339.

CAPTAIN NOYES is one of the many gifted and highly educated men who have enlisted in our army from patriotic motives alone. His narrative, therefore, though for the most part made up of incidents which

any one who could hold a pen might describe, manifests a keener observation, a more just estimate of men and circumstances, and a finer tone of thought and sentiment, than are commonly found in the ephemeral records either of war or of travel. It is a book which one will wish not only to read, but to keep; and is among those to which the historian of the war will resort to determine on the Federal side the *animus* of the movement and its actors. We quote from it the two following paragraphs, as dimly, yet surely, prophetic of a better state of feeling between the North and the South than existed before the war.

"I have learned from this war to give to the South credit for one quality I did not suppose it possessed, — that of endurance. Five years of my boyhood I passed in a Southern school, and have mingled with Southerners at college and elsewhere, and had come to think of them as men of show rather than substance, — of momentary bravado rather than true courage, — of flash and pinchbeck assumption rather than real chivalry. But I have found out that they are patient and can endure, and, despite the many exceptionable instances of gross brutality and neglect of the courtesies of honorable warfare, it seems to me that they have, in general, borne themselves in this war chivalrously as well as bravely. I do not pretend that the Southerner illustrates the highest type of the gentleman. He is rather the gentleman of the Middle Ages, — ignorant, overbearing, insolent, but with a good deal of the leaven of a true chivalry; not a Bayard certainly, but more after the style of a Black Douglas or a Harry Hotspur.

"And I am inclined to think that we of the North are to be better understood hereafter by the South. They had learned to appraise the Northern valor and principle by the standard of our political subserviency. They went into this rebellion with no idea that the North would dare to resist in arms, — the poor, cowardly, truckling North, which they had frightened into compromises, and then frightened into breaking them, and which had so long trembled in the national Congress beneath the Southern rod. This mistake is gradually being corrected also. The hands accustomed so long to peaceful labor only, are learning the trick of war; the muscles trained only at the plough or in the workshop are becoming skilled in the use of the musket and the sword; and it is evident that the North has not only the courage, but also the skill, needed to put down this rebellion. The men who have stood against each other in the battles of this war can never fling upon each other the charge of cowardice, — must acknowledge and respect in each other their common manhood; so much, at least, is gained."

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30. — *The American Publishers' Circular and Literary Gazette*. Published on the 1st and 15th of each Month. Vol. I. Nos. 1–10. May 1–September 15, 1863. 8vo. pp. 1–384.

WE cannot in justice let the first volume of this work draw to a